



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Robert L. Morgan  
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801  
(801) 538-5340 telephone  
(801) 359-3940 fax  
(801) 538-7223 TTY  
www.nr.utah.gov

July 22, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Doug Jensen, Senior Reclamation Specialist *D. Jensen*

RE: Site Inspection, Ron Stout, et al, St George Red Sandstone Project, M/053/073,  
Washington County, Utah

Date of Inspection: July 17, 2002  
Time of Inspection: 9:00 a.m.  
Conditions: Cloudy and Warm  
Participants: Scott Stratton - operator; John O'Brien, John Melfi, Ron Pennington - MSHA;  
Will Stokes - SITLA; and Doug Jensen - DOGM

**Purpose of Inspection:** Inspection of a possible unpermitted site.

**Getting to the site:**

The site is located just west of the I-15 freeway across from the Red Cliffs Mall in the St. George industrial area.

**Observations:**

The excavation site is located immediately behind an equipment yard owned by the Rolling Stone Construction Company. This area is adjacent to a large St. George industrial complex.

Scott explained that the purpose for the removal of the material located on their property was to develop the property into additional industrial space. The area being developed is approximately 10 acres and presently has areas 30 to 40 feet above the level of the adjacent industrial complex. It was stated that the material is being removed in an attempt to lower the overall elevation of their property to the level of Rolling Stone's property.

There was a crusher, screen deck, several product belts and a generator located in one portion of the site. The power to this crusher had been torn out and was not operating at the time of the inspection. There was also a portable crusher located onsite that was being operated at the time of the inspection. This crusher appeared to be processing onsite overburden material. An excavator was loading material from the product pile at the portable crusher as the inspection was initiated. I informed Scott of the Division's June 17, 2002 letter which directed that all mining activity at the site should cease until a meeting could be held with Division officers. In conjunction with my informing Scott of the Division's letter, MSHA ordered work at the site shut down due to lack of equipment operator training and safety violations. Scott shut down the on site operations and left the site to contact the Division offices.

There were multiple stockpiles of crushed and sized material on the site along with a small pile of sandstone boulders. None of these piles, with the exception of the pile of alluvial material, were very large.

Material removal is taking place on the upper terrace of the property. A highwall 25 to 30 feet high and several hundred feet long has already been established on the northern edge of this area. A large flat has been established south of this highwall. The crusher sites, product piles and load-out areas are located on this flat area.

Will and I accompanied Scott to an area approximately one mile from the site where a large majority of the material from the site has been placed. The site is an area where a road fill, approximately ½ mile in length, is being built. This road will become a city street when the material placement is complete, but completion will require quite a bit of additional material. An agreement with the city for acceptance of the street has been signed with the City of St. George. This road, when completed, will provide a direct access to a forty-acre area where Mr. Stout et al has started a housing development.

Scott also indicated that some of the material from the site had been given to UDOT for their use. Also 40,000 to 60,000 CY of material was given away as a part of the development of a Wall-Mart store in the vicinity.

Will and I also inspected the housing development area where a portion of the material from the excavation site is being utilized. One concrete foundation and several foundation (?) excavations exist at the site. Some of the crushed material from the excavation site had been used to backfill around the foundation. Also some alluvial material from the site had been placed to dress portions of the roads within the housing site.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The excavation site is stable and material is being removed as time permits. According to the site operators this activity has been taking place over the last three years. Material removal is being done as time permits during times when the equipment is not being used to complete other construction jobs. There does not appear that there will be a concerted effort to complete the excavation work at this site in the near future.

The development of this site from into an industrial area is the ultimate goal of this operation. Removal of the material on the site is necessary to attain this goal. Much of the material on site is porous sandstone that produces a rock that is not suitable for sale as boulders or landscaping rock. The use of the rock for road fill is a practical utilization of the amount of material that will have to be removed.



7/16/2002









7/17/2002















